

Comparison of potential indicators of deprivation

Indicator	What it is	How it works	%age of pupils captured at Key Stages	Advantages	Disadvantages
FSM (in-year)	Individual pupils known to be eligible to receive free school meals. Pupils are counted once a year in the January School Census.	Eligibility is based on parental income. Parents have to apply for free school meals at the school or LA and prove they are eligible by producing, for instance, a TC602 Tax Credit Award Notice.	16% - KS2 13% - KS4	Targets funding at the individual pupil. Recognised and generally understood Based on the specific characteristics of the pupil rather than the assumption that the pupil reflects the general characteristics of the area. Readily available in schools Established historical time-series Updated annually	Relies on parents claiming FSM. There is a known issue of under-reporting. (Though this may be ameliorated by behaviour change if it is adopted as a measure for the premium). Cultural barriers for some groups Size of FSM cohort declines as pupils get older. Resistance from a sizeable proportion of teachers to its validity.
FSM ever (3 year)	As above, but including all pupils recorded as being eligible for FSM in the last three years. This utilises the same census 'flag' as FSM (in-year).	As data are collected through the school census each year it is available via the National Pupil Database	21% - KS2 17% - KS4	All the above advantages of FSM (in-year) In addition it includes those children in families where eligibility fluctuates as parents are in or out of work. It thus captures a wider range of deprivation than in-year FSM.	As above. In addition, assuming a cash-limited budget for the Pupil Premium, defining more pupils as deprived inevitably means reducing the size of the premium per pupil. Targeting, therefore, becomes more diffuse.
FSM ever (6 year)	As above, but including all pupils recorded as being eligible for FSM in the last six years.	As data are collected through the school census each year it is available via the National Pupil Database	27% - KS2 24% - KS4	As above, but captures the next group of less seriously deprived pupils.	Targeting is even more diffuse. A national average disadvantaged rate of 27% at KS2 means that some primary schools would

	This utilises the same census 'flag' as above.				qualify as 100% disadvantaged, as every child will have been eligible for FSM at some point.
Out of work tax credit	An indicator developed to identify those families where Child Tax Credits are being claimed where both parents are not working and claiming the out of work tax credit.	Calculated at Lower Super Output Area level. Is currently based on data from 2005.	20.6% of pupils	Picks up families just above the FSM threshold	No historical data-set Area-based and therefore does not represent individual family circumstances
ACORN / MOSAIC	ACORN and MOSAIC are commercial geodemographic classifications of postcodes into types based on census and other information using cluster analysis and other statistical methods. They are designed to identify groupings of households based on consumer behaviour. Postcodes are allocated to groups according to the characteristics / behaviour of residents, based on a wide range of source data.	ACORN (CACI) classifies at postcode level into 56 types, which in turn are grouped into 17 groups and five categories. Mosaic (Experian) classifies all households into one of 61 types and 11 groups - available for households and postcodes. These are not child-specific and the information about how they are made up is not all in the public domain due to commercial confidentiality.	n/k	Based on a wider range of data, including census and commercial information, which enables discrimination below LSOA level based on allocating postcodes to one of the 56/61 types. Types/groupings labelled to help understanding Likely to provide better discrimination for less severely deprived groups which may be missed by the indices which are based on identifying the most severe deprivation. Increasingly being used by, and products tailored to needs of, public sector as well as private sector. Analyses by CASA suggest that the MOSAIC or ACORN types are a good predictor of performance at GCSE.	Classification of areas rather than a direct index. Developed primarily for business (sales and marketing) purposes Although given for each postcode, most input data is based on larger areas. These are commercial products so precise data inputs and statistical methods are not made public; data is made available for use on payment of a licence fee. Hierarchy of advantage/ disadvantage developed for more general purposes and for adults may not match that for education/children; Were we to decide to use either MOSAIC or ACORN it is likely we would have to contract with them to tailor their datasets to fit a deprivation usage.